

# **EXHIBIT A**

# BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

2030 Addison Street, Seventh Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704  
Telephone: (510) 843-6200 Facsimile: (510) 843-6203  
www.beyerlaw.com

May 9, 2003

Sheldon Aronowitz  
3577 Barley Court  
San Jose, California 95127

Re: U.S. Patent Application entitled, "*Vaporization and Ionization of Metals for Use in Semiconductor Processing*"  
Inventors: Kimball, et al.  
Your File No.: 03-0569 Our File No.: LSI1P223

Dear Mr. Aronowitz:

Thank you for your comments concerning the above-referenced patent application. We have now revised the application in accordance with your comments.

At this time it is necessary to sign the enclosed standard forms. One form is a Declaration and Power of Attorney form, and the other form is an assignment of rights to LSI Logic. After your final read through of the patent application (assuming no additional changes are needed), please read and then sign and date each of the enclosed forms by your name.

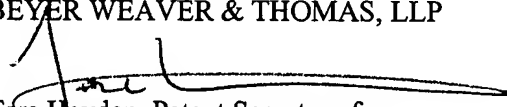
A disk containing the revised patent application will be mailed to the IP Law Department of LSI Logic.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Please note that by law this application (as filed) will be published in the U.S. at 18 months from the earliest priority date. If the application will not be filed internationally, you may choose to request nonpublication, but this request must be made upon filing the application. You also have options of early publication and republication, but as these issues are complex, please telephone us should you have any questions on any aspect of publication.

Finally, we would again like to remind you of our duty to disclose the most pertinent prior art of which you are aware to the Patent and Trademark Office. If you can think of any pertinent references or patents, or any similar existing technology, please let us know. The duty to disclose prior art continues until the patent actually issues; if you become aware of other prior art in the future, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Tara Hayden, Patent Secretary for  
James E. Austin

Enclosures

3577 Barley Court  
San Jose, CA 95127-4401

May 19, 2003

Tara Hayden  
Patent Secretary for James E. Austin  
Beyer Weaver & Thomas  
2030 Addison St.  
Suite 700  
Berkeley, CA 94704-1144

Dear Tara Hayden:

Re: Your letters dated May 9, 2003 and the U.S. Patent Applications LSI1P212 & LSI1P223

I am returning the two U.S. patent applications, *Vaporization and Handling of Metals for Use in Semiconductor Processing* by James Kimball and Sheldon Aronowitz and *Vaporization and Ionization of Metals for Use in Semiconductor Processing* by James Kimball and Sheldon Aronowitz, unread and unsigned.

I am no longer employed by LSI Logic. If a satisfactory consultative arrangement between LSI Logic and myself can be established, I would be happy to analyze, critic, and subsequently sign the documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Aronowitz', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sheldon Aronowitz

Encl.: U.S. Patent Applications LSI1P212 & LSI1P223 and two cover letters from  
Tara Hayden